

***Remarks***

Reconsideration of this Application is respectfully requested.

Upon entry of the foregoing amendment, claims 1-19, 21, 22, 24-27, 29, 30, 34-41, and 43-46 are pending in the application, with claims 1, 9, 18, 35, and 38 being the independent claims. Claims 1-17 and 35-37 have been withdrawn. Claims 18, 19, 21, 22, 24-27, 29, 30, 34, 38, 40, 41, and 43-46 are sought to be amended. These changes are believed to introduce no new matter, and their entry is respectfully requested.

Based on the above amendment and the following remarks, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn.

***Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102***

Claims 18, 19, 25-27, 38, 39, 45, and 46 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being clearly anticipated by Simon et al, U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0093691 ("Simon"). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Simon does not teach or suggest each and every element of Applicant's amended independent claims 18 and 38. Simon describes a "connectivity protocol" used to "maintain packet-based communications between various networks nodes." (Simon, ¶ [0035]). "Such a connectivity protocol may include within it a routing protocol, or may itself be a routing protocol (for example, Open Shortest Path First ("OSPF") or Routing Information Protocol ("RIP"))." (Simon, ¶ [0035]).

Simon does not teach or suggest “sending the updated security association information associated with the first secure packet flow... in a first update packet having a custom routing header configured to allow routing of the first update packet through mirrored security processors” or “sending the updated security association information associated with the second secure packet flow ... in a second update packet having a custom routing header configured to allow routing of the second update packet through mirrored security processors,” as recited in amended independent claim 18.

Simon further does not teach or suggest “a first mirrored security processor configured to ... send the updated security association information associated with the first packet flow in a first update packet having a custom routing header configured to allow routing of the first update packet through mirrored security processors” or “a second mirrored security processor configured to ... send the updated security association information associated with the second packet flow in a second update packet having a custom routing header configured to allow routing of the second update packet through mirrored security processors,” as recited in amended independent claim 38.

For at least these reasons, amended independent claims 18 and 38 are patentable over Simon. Claims 19, 25-27, and 45 depend from claim 18 and claims 39 and 46 depend from claim 38. For at least the above reasons, and further in view of their own features, dependent claims 19, 25-27, 29, 45, and 46 are patentable over Simon. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is therefore respectfully requested.

***Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103***

Simon and Xiong

Claims 21, 22, 24, 29, 30, and 34 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Simon and in view of Xiong, et al, U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0061507 (Xiong). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Claims 21, 22, 24, 29, 30, and 34 depend from amended claim 18. Xiong does not overcome the deficiencies of Simon relative to amended claim 18 described above. For at least these reasons, and further in view of their own features, dependent claims 21, 22, 24, 29, 30, and 34 are patentable over the combination of Simon and Xiong. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are therefore respectfully requested.

Simon and Rosenow

Claims 40, 41, 43, and 44 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Simon and in view of Rosenow, et al, U.S. Patent No. 5,022,076 (Rosenow). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Claims 40, 41, 43, and 44 depend from amended claim 38. Rosenow does not overcome the deficiencies of Simon relative to amended claim 38 described above. For at least these reasons, and further in view of their own features, dependent claims 40, 41, 43, and 44 are patentable over the combination of Simon and Rosenow. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are therefore respectfully requested.

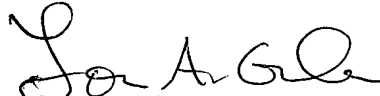
***Conclusion***

All of the stated grounds of objection and rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn. Applicants believe that a full and complete reply has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment and Reply is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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